

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 278171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CA

SUBJECT: RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY TO JAMIESON LETTER ON
MARITIME NEGOTIATIONS

PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DONALD JAMIESON. BEGIN TEXT --

DEAR DON:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 22 CONCERNING OUR
DISCUSSION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND RELATED RESOURCE
ISSUES. I CERTAINLY SHARE YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WE
HAD MADE PROGRESS ON THESE ISSUES, AND I REGRET THAT SOME
DIFFERENCES OF INTERPRETATION APPARENTLY HAVE ARISEN.

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WE AGREED TO CONTINUE OUR
EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT OF OUR
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VARIOUS MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND RELATED RESOURCE ISSUES.

TO FACILITATE THIS EFFORT, I UNDERSTOOD THAT WE AGREED ON FOUR BASIC POINTS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE GULF OF MAINE AREA:

- (1) TO TRY TO FIND A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE BOUNDARY LINE;
- (2) IN THE INTERVAL, WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON, TO WORK OUT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH THE FISHERY ACTIVITIES OF THIRD PARTIES;
- (3) TO NEGOTIATE RECIPROCAL FISHERY ARRANGEMENTS NOT NECESSARILY BOUND BY OUR TWO CLAIMED BOUNDARY LINES;
- (4) TO WORK OUT COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING HYDRO-CARBONS ON SIMILAR TERMS.

IN MY VIEW THESE FOUR POINTS REPRESENT IMPORTANT PROGRESS, BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY DO NOT ANSWER ALL THE HARD QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE ONE PUT IN YOUR LETTER. YOU DID INDEED MAKE CLEAR THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT BY CANADA ON A COMPROMISE BOUNDARY LINE WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF COUPLED WITH A SATISFACTORY LONG-TERM FISHERIES AGREEMENT. MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE BASIS ON WHICH WE AGREED TO CONTINUE OUR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WAS THAT WE WOULD SEEK ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD BE RECIPROCAL AND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE AND WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE LIMITED TO THE ZONE BETWEEN OUR TWO LINES. IT WAS NOT MY UNDERSTANDING THAT OUR FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE PREMISED ON JOINT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN AN AREA EXTENDING BEYOND THE ZONE OF OVERLAPPING CLAIMS, BUT THAT ACCESS TO FISHERIES OF INTEREST IN AN AREA NOT NECESSARILY BOUND BY OUR TWO CLAIMED BOUNDARY LINES COULD BE NEGOTIATED FOR THE SHORT-TERM.

I WOULD HOPE THAT OUR AGREEMENT ON THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES SUCH AS THOSE I HAVE OUTLINED ABOVE COULD SERVE AS A FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SHORT-TERM ARRANGEMENTS AND LONG-TERM AGREEMENT--IN EFFECT AS THE AGREED MINUTE OF UNDERSTANDING YOU SUGGESTED.

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I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU SHARE MY VIEW THAT AT THIS STAGE THE IMPORTANT POINT IS TO GET THE TALKS MOVING BOTH ON SPECIFIC BOUNDARY LINES AND ON THE IMPORTANT RELATED RESOURCES ISSUES. IF YOU AGREE, LET US INSTRUCT OUR NEGOTIATORS TO RESUME THEIR WORK AT ONCE, RECOGNIZING THAT WITH RESPECT TO FISHERIES, THE IMMEDIATE NEED IS THE NEGOTIATION FOR SHORT-TERM ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL AVOID CONFLICT WHILE WE PURSUE OUR LONGER TERM OBJECTIVES.

WARM REGARDS. HENRY A. KISSINGER. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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